ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a rotary switch mechanism comprising a dial unit and a position sensor that rotates as the dial unit rotates, with the rotational position of the dial unit determined based upon an output signal provided by the position sensor. The present invention allows the dial unit to assume a greater rotational angle range and also allows the number of dial steps to be increased by assuring the desired level of reading resolution for the sensor. The present invention includes a plurality of position sensors 13c-1, 13c-2 and 13c-3 and detection switches 16 and 17 the output signals of which are switched in correspondence to the rotational position assumed by the dial unit. The entire angle range over which the dial unit is allowed to rotate is divided into a plurality of range blocks, a specific position sensor is designated to one of these blocks and the position sensor engaged in operation is switched based upon the output signal provided by the detection switches 16 and 17. Alternatively, the range over which a detection switch is in an ON state may be designated to a predetermined rotational position assumed by the dial unit and the output signal from a position sensor may be used for the position detection over the range in which the detection switch is in an OFF state.